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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/811,346	03/26/2004	Russell Bonaventura	LEAP:128US	1571

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S. Peter Konzel, Esq.
Simpson & Simpson, PLLC
5555 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221-5406

EXAMINER

PRITCHETT, JOSHUA L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2872

DATE MAILED: 05/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/811,346

Applicant(s)

BONAVENTURA ET AL.

Examiner

Joshua L. Pritchett

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 April 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-7 and 9-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-7 and 9-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to After Final Amendment filed April 26, 2006. The Amendment has been entered. All applicant's arguments have been considered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see Amendment, filed April 26, 2006, with respect to claims 1, 12 and 22 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1, 12 and 22 has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Esmay (US 4,616,517) in view of Bigelow (US 4,158,216).

Applicant argues that the prior art and the current application are commonly owned. MPEP 706.02(l)(2) allows the applicant to establish common ownership by a statement similar to the one made by applicant on page 3 of Amendment. Also Example 1 in 706.02(l)(2) states that if a parent company wholly owns to subsidiary companies then the inventions of the subsidiary companies are commonly owned. Applicant states that the companies for the prior art and the current application are wholly owned subsidiaries of Leica Microsystems GmbH. Applicant has satisfied the requirements to establish common ownership and the prior art reference is disqualified.

Claim Objections

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Claim 14 is objected to because of the following informalities: claim 14 states, "said focus drive mean." This limitation does not have proper support. Claim 14 should depend from claim 13 to provide proper support for this limitation. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Esmay (US 4,616,517).

Regarding claim 12, Esmay discloses a focus adjustment means (22) a first focus adjustment knob (16) and a removable focus adjustment knob (20), the first focus adjustment knob and the removable focus adjustment knob are coaxial and independently rotatable with respect to one another (Fig. 1).

Regarding claim 13, Esmay discloses the focus adjustment means comprises a rotatable shaft (22; Fig. 1; col. 2 line 61).

Regarding claim 14, Esmay discloses the focus adjustment knob is releasably fastenable to the focus drive means (col. 3 lines 66-68).

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Regarding claim 15, Esmay discloses the removable focus adjustment knob is fastenable to the focus drive means by first means operatively arranged for preventing separating movement of the removable focus adjustment knob axially away therefrom and a second means tending to allow rotation of the focus drive means with the removable focus adjustment knob (col. 3 lines 66-68; Fig. 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Esmay (US 4,616,517) in view of Bigelow (US 4,158,216).

Regarding claims 1 and 5, Esmay teaches a microscope with a removable interchangeable focus adjustment knob (20) fastenable to a focus adjustment means (col. 3 lines 66-68; Fig. 1; 22). Esmay lacks reference to magnetic connection to attach the knob. Bigelow teaches a knob (20) magnetically attachable to maintain the position of the knob (Fig. 2; abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the knob of Esmay attachable using magnetic attraction for the purpose of providing a more secure attachment to the focus adjustment means so that the knob would not easily fall off the microscope.

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Regarding claims 2 and 6, Esmay teaches the focus adjustment means comprises a rotatable shaft (22; Fig. 1; col. 2 line 61).

Regarding claims 3 and 7, Esmay teaches the knob adapted for complementary engagement with the focus adjustment means (col. 3 lines 66-68). Esmay lacks reference to magnetic connection to attach the knob. Bigelow teaches a knob (20) magnetically attachable to maintain the position of the knob (Fig. 2; abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the knob of Esmay attachable using magnetic attraction for the purpose of providing a more secure attachment to the focus adjustment means so that the knob would not easily fall off the microscope.

Regarding claim 9, Esmay teaches a second focus adjustment means (16).

Regarding claim 10, Esmay teaches the second focus adjustment means comprises a second focusing means (18).

Regarding claim 11, Esmay teaches the removable focus adjustment knob is attachable to the second focus adjustment means (Fig. 1). Esmay lacks reference to magnetic connection to attach the knob. Bigelow teaches a knob (20) magnetically attachable to maintain the position of the knob (Fig. 2; abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the knob of Esmay attachable using magnetic attraction for the purpose of providing a more secure attachment to the focus adjustment means so that the knob would not easily fall off the microscope.

Regarding claim 16, Esmay teaches the invention as claimed but lacks reference to magnetic attachment. Bigelow teaches a knob (20) magnetically attachable to maintain the position of the knob (Fig. 2; abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the

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art at the time the invention was made to have the knob of Esmay attachable using magnetic attraction for the purpose of providing a more secure attachment to the focus adjustment means so that the knob would not easily fall off the microscope.

Regarding claim 17, Esmay teaches the use of pin means extending axially of the removable focus adjustment knob and pin receiving means (113) complementarily extending axially of the focus drive means (Fig. 1).

Regarding claim 18, Esmay teaches the invention as claimed but lacks reference to magnetic attachment. Bigelow teaches a knob (20) magnetically attachable to maintain the position of the knob (Fig. 2; abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the knob of Esmay attachable using magnetic attraction for the purpose of providing a more secure attachment to the focus adjustment means so that the knob would not easily fall off the microscope.

Regarding claim 19, Esmay teaches the focus drive means is operatively arranged for causing vertical displacement of a microscope stage (col. 1 lines 18-20).

Claims 20 and 21 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Esmay (US 4,616,517) in view of Bigelow (US 4,158,216) as applied to claim 19 above, and further in view of Ganser (US 5,684,627).

Regarding claim 20, Esmay in combination with Bigelow teaches the invention as claimed but lacks reference to the focus adjustment means provided on opposite sides of the microscope. Ganser teaches it would be advantageous to place duplicate focus adjustment means on opposite sides of a microscope body for ergonomic purposes (col. 3 lines 65-66). It would

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have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the Esamy in combination with Bigelow microscope include the focus means on opposite sides of the microscope as taught by Ganser for the purpose of allowing easy operation by a person with either hand being dominant.

Regarding claim 21, The prior art teaches the claimed invention except for the axial length of one focus knob being longer than another. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to change the axial length of one of the focus knobs, since such a modification would involve only a mere change in size of a component. Scaling up or down of an element which merely requires a change in size is generally considered as being within the ordinary skill in the art. There appears to be no substantial advantage to having one knob longer than the other except for design choice or user preference.

Claims 22, 24, 26-28, 30 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Esmay (US 4,616,517) in view of Ganser (US 5,684,627).

Regarding claim 22, 26, 28 and 32, Esmay teaches a focusing means comprising a removable focus adjustment knob (20) and a focus drive means (22). Esmay lacks reference to the focus adjustment means provided on opposite sides of the microscope. Ganser teaches it would be advantageous to place duplicate focus adjustment means on opposite sides of a microscope body for ergonomic purposes (col. 3 lines 65-66). Esmay further lacks the axial length of one focus knob being longer than another. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to change the axial length of one of

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the focus knobs, since such a modification would involve only a mere change in size of a component. Scaling up or down of an element which merely requires a change in size is generally considered as being within the ordinary skill in the art. There appears to be no substantial advantage to having one knob longer than the other except for design choice or user preference. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the Esamy microscope include the focus means on opposite sides of the microscope as taught by Ganser for the purpose of allowing easy operation by a person with either hand being dominant.

Regarding claims 24 and 30, Esamay teaches the use of pin means extending axially of the removable focus adjustment knob and pin receiving means (113) complementarily extending axially of the focus drive means (Fig. 1).

Regarding claim 27, Esamay teaches a focus means comprising a first coarse (16) and first removable (20) focus adjustment knobs and a drive means (22). Esamay lacks reference to the focus adjustment means provided on opposite sides of the microscope. Ganser teaches it would be advantageous to place duplicate focus adjustment means on opposite sides of a microscope body for ergonomic purposes (col. 3 lines 65-66). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the Esamy microscope include the focus means on opposite sides of the microscope as taught by Ganser for the purpose of allowing easy operation by a person with either hand being dominant.

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Claims 23, 25, 29 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Esmay (US 4,616,517) in view of Ganser (US 5,684,627) as applied to claims 22 and 27 above, and further in view of Bigelow (US 4,158,216).

Esmay in combination with Ganser teaches the invention as claimed but lacks reference to magnetic attachment. Bigelow teaches a knob (20) magnetically attachable to maintain the position of the knob (Fig. 2; abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the knob of Esmay in combination with Ganser attachable using magnetic attraction for the purpose of providing a more secure attachment to the focus adjustment means so that the knob would not easily fall off the microscope.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Bigelow (US 4,233,593) shows a knob (25) attachable to a magnetic disk (20) to allow the knob to be attached to the disk (Fig. 2).

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO**

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MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua L. Pritchett whose telephone number is 571-272-2318. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00 - 3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew A. Dunn can be reached on 571-272-2312. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JLP



DREW A. DUNN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER